

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Chesapeake Bay Commercial Mature Female Hard Crab Catch Limits and
Crew Requirements — July 2018 through October 2018

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.02.03.14, announces the commercial mature female hard crab catch limits for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. The daily commercial mature female hard crab bushel limits for July 2018 through October 2018 are as follows:

Daily Mature Female Bushel Limits by License Type				
Date	LCC	TFL or CB3	TFL with CB6 or CB3 with CB6	TFL with CB9 or CB3 with CB9
July 1-August 31	2	10	14	17
September 1- October 31	5	19	29	35
The above acronyms stand for: LCC – Limited Crab Harvester License 50 pots; CB3 – Crab Harvester License 300 pots; CB6 – 600 pot authorization; CB9 – 900 pot authorization; and TFL – Unlimited Tidal Fish License				

Mature female hard crab bushel limits are based on results of the 2017-2018 winter crab dredge survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Mature female hard crab bushel limits for the remainder of the season will be announced at a later date following further consultation with advisory groups.

As described in Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article, §4-814, a 600 pot authorization (CB6) requires the license holder to have one crew member in addition to him/herself and a 900 pot authorization (CB9) requires the license holder to have two crew members in addition to him/herself on board. These additional crew members must be on board the vessel in order for the licensee to harvest at the bushel limit assigned to a CB6 or CB9. If crew members are not on board, then the licensee is restricted to the TFL or CB3 bushel limits.

Mark J. Belton
Secretary of Natural Resources